

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Center for Civic and Law-Related Education

February 2010

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NJ Council for the Social Studies

HOLD THE DATE: The annual conference of the **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference** will be held on Tuesday, **October 26, 2010** at Rutgers, The State University.

Social Science Docket

All paid NJCSS members should have received a copy of the Summer/Fall 2009 Social Science DOCKET and the winter/spring 2010 Docket. Please call NJCLRE at 732-445-3413 or email civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you have NOT received your copy.

Spring meetings

NJCSS officers, directors and members are invited to a planning meeting from 4 to 6 p.m. on **March 11, 2010** at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 450 Division Road, Edison, NJ. Call NJCLRE at 732-445-3413 if you would like to attend.

NJSSSA is holding its last meeting for 2009-2010 for social studies supervisors on **May 20, 2010**.

Spring workshops

Thank you for your responses about regional workshops about the new state social studies standards. The NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association recommended at its February 4, 2010 meeting that we hold off doing workshops until next year since there is so much flux at the State Department of Education. Therefore, **we have postponed the regional workshops about the new social studies standards until next year.**

If anyone would like to help work on either the annual fall conference or the regional spring workshops, please call or email Arlene Gardner at 732-445-3413 or agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu.

Student Events



East Brunswick High School wins the 2009-2010 NJ State We the People competition.

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East Brunswick High School won the 23rd annual **New Jersey State We the People High School Simulated Legislative Hearings**, which were held on February 5, 2010 at the State House in Trenton. West Windsor-Plainsboro placed second and Hopewell Valley third. East Brunswick will represent New Jersey at the National *We the People* competition in April. *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* is the largest civic education program in the country. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Independent studies report that students who use the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* materials outperform other students on political knowledge and philosophy and are more politically tolerant than students who use traditional textbooks and teaching approaches.

The annual **New Jersey State We the People Middle School Simulated Legislative Hearings** will be held at Rutgers University in Piscataway on **Friday, March 26, 2010**. Please contact NJCLRE at civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a class to participate in this student event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click](#) for more information on *We the People* simulated legislative hearings, including middle school hearing questions.

Project Citizen is a project based civic education program for middle and high school students. It emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government and involves students in understanding public policy. Classes identify a community problem. They research the problem, evaluate alternative solutions, and create a political action plan to enlist local or state authorities to change or develop a policy to improve the situation. An annual state showcase is held where school projects are displayed and orally presented. This year's **Project Citizen Portfolio Showcase and Oral Presentation** will be held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2010** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. Please contact civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu if you are interested in bringing a class to participate in this student event, or if you would like to observe it. [Click](#) for more information on the *Project Citizen* Portfolio Showcase.

The National Financial Capability Challenge is an awards program for educators and high school students that aims to encourage the teaching of personal finance. Would you like your students to be part of the National Financial Capability Challenge? If so, sign up at www.challenge.treas.gov by March 14th.

Professional Development

Spring Workshops and Conferences

2010 Classroom Earth National High School Challenge, a program encouraging teachers to incorporate environmental education into all subject areas through innovative teaching strategies is now accepting [applications](#). Teachers from around the nation can receive up to \$4,000 to make their ideas become reality.

The Middle States Council for the Social Studies will be holding its 107th Regional Conference at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on **February 25-26, 2010**. This year's theme is **Learning from the Past and Living for the Future**. [Click](#) to access the registration form. The late registration fee can be waived. Mention "MSCSS Conference" to receive the conference rate at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center. But don't wait! Time is running out.

The Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies will be holding its 41st annual conference **March 22 -25, 2010** at the Sturbridge Conference Center in Sturbridge Massachusetts. This year's theme is **Beyond Borders: Creating Connections ~ Changing the World**. [Click](#) to access the registration form.

A workshop on **Ethnicity, Race and Class in Working America** will be sponsored by the American Labor Museum and held on Wednesday, **March 24, 2010** at the Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, New Jersey. Authors, historians and educators will discuss methods of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the curriculum. Teachers will received 5 professional development hours and, teaching materials for grades 4-12 will be distributed. Registration fee: \$45 for museum members, \$50 for non-members. [Click](#) for a registration form, or go to www.labormuseum.org, or call (973) 595-7953.

Teaching Oral History workshop at the Vietnam Era Education Center, Holmdel, NJ, **March 25, 2010**. Teachers will perform mock interviews with Vietnam Veterans and receive practical application for the classroom. Call 732-335-0033 to register.

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Summer Institutes

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Institute for middle and high school teachers from Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be held **July 11-14, 2010** at Valley Forge, PA. The curriculum enhances student understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. All expenses are paid. A refundable deposit is required along with your registration by May 6, 2010. Participating teachers will receive curriculum materials and certificates for 30 hours of professional development. Teachers may request a free classroom set of ***We the People*** textbooks, which includes 30 student textbooks and a teacher's guide. [Click](#) for an application or contact Arlene Gardner at NJCLRE at 732-445-3413 for additional information.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Institute for upper elementary teachers will be held on the James Madison Campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia **July 16-23, 2010**. [Click](#) for additional information and an application.

Project Citizen Summer Institute for middle and high school teachers from the northeast will be held **July 19-25, 2010** at Newport, RI. All expenses are paid. If you are not available these dates, Summer Institutes will also be held in Boise Idaho or Louisville, KY, July 12-16, 2010. You will need to pay your travel expenses to these other locations. Click for an [application](#) form and additional information.

NEH National Academy for Civics and Government, an intensive, three-week program for upper elementary, middle and high school teachers, will be held **July 10-31, 2010** in Los Angeles, CA. For additional information contact smith@civiced.org.

The **United States Supreme Court Institute** sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, will be held **June 17-22, 2010** in Washington, D.C. Accepted participants will have the opportunity to learn about the cert process, media coverage of the court, specific cases, and judicial philosophies from Supreme Court experts, journalists, authors, and attorneys. Teachers become attorneys and justices for a day by participating in a moot court. Valuable online resources and effective teaching methods are presented alongside content-rich materials, and the week culminates with a visit to the Court to hear decisions handed down and a private reception at the Court. The application deadline is **March 15, 2010**. For additional information, go to <http://www.streetlaw.org/en/Article.151.aspx>

Gilder Lehrman Institute offers a variety of summer seminars in American History. For a full listing, go to http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/_seminar_course_offerings.php

Founders Fellowship Program Institute for 20 early-career American history and civics teachers across the country is being offered by the Bill of Rights Institute. The application can be found at www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Fellows and is due on March 24, 2010.

Resources for Teachers

Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University continues to offer "The Eagleton Assessment," an online survey instrument that measures the levels of civic engagement of high school freshmen. The assessment provides schools with an efficient means for measuring the quality of their institution's civic education and allows schools to collect data useful for strategic planning, crafting benchmarks, and demonstrating accountability. For more information, contact Elizabeth Matto at 732-932-9384 ext. 256 or ematto@rci.rutgers.edu.

Are you looking for U.S. history materials that focus on domestic as well as political and diplomatic history? Do you want to involve your students in considering historical documents and multiple perspectives in order to better understand what happened in the past and why? You may want to consider **Conflict Resolution and United States History**. This curriculum package for grades 5-12 includes a CD with primary source documents, student overheads and power points for case studies of conflicts in American history ranging from the colonial period through the 1990s as well as a DVD showing middle and high school students engaged in role-playing historical figures. Click for a [sample lesson](#) or for an [order form](#).

Critical thinking units and resource materials about Africa - from the early African kingdoms of the 7th century to the emerging democracies of the 21st century - are available online [in 8 separate units](#).

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Lessons integrating literature, history, geography and law for grades 4-12 are available [online](#).

Tours of the New Jersey State House are available Mondays through Fridays for grades 3-12 (one hour) or grades 2-3 (30 minutes) or take a 15 minute peak (grades K-12) by calling 609-633-2709. Eagleton Institute of Politics' [State House Express Program](#) provides \$300 grants to schools to offset the costs of bringing middle and high school classes to the State House and to enable your students to participate in a "Make a Law" mock legislative session. For more information contact Gloria Minor at gminor@rci.rutgers.edu or at 732-932-9384, ext. 245.

Revolution '67 recounts the black urban rebellions of the 1960s, often relegated to footnotes in U.S. history. Focusing on the six-day outbreak of violence in Newark, New Jersey, **Revolution '67** reveals how the disturbance began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality and ended as a fateful milestone in America's struggles over race and economic justice. Voices from across the political spectrum recall lessons as hard-earned then as they have been easy to neglect since. Video clips and accompanying curriculum are available [online](#).

Social Studies Issues

Online Community for New Jersey Social Studies Teachers. The new online community at <http://njssteachers.ning.com> for New Jersey social studies educators is up and running. You can join (there is no cost) to share materials and ideas, ask questions, voice concerns and participate in discussions with other members of the New Jersey social studies education community. [Click](#) to visit the site, [sign up](#) for an individual account and join the New Jersey Social Studies Teachers Community. Once you've signed up you will have full access to the site's discussion forums, shared event information, and posts by other members.

Caucus New Jersey will be airing "**On the Frontlines: Promoting Civic Participation**," on WNET on Saturday, Feb. 27th at 12:30 p.m. and on NJN on Sunday, Feb. 28th at 8:30 a.m. and Monday, Mar. 1st at 11:30 p.m.

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Thanks for your support, and please feel free to contact our office with any questions, or for additional information on any of the programs we offer.

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